

LODI

Incorporated October 20, 1988

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 3

# LODI HISTORIAN

FALL 1995

## SALEM DISTRICT & SCHOOL

*By Lucy Reller and Ralph Lea*

The San Joaquin County Court of Sessions established five school districts with Elkhorn and Elliott Townships named Number One. The school, later called Henderson, was placed on Armstrong Road and the district extended north to the county line on Dry Creek.

In 1859 the people living near the Mokelumne River between Woodbridge and Lockeford decided they needed a school closer to their farms. On May 6th, Mr. Walker, Mr. Jenkins and others, petitioned San Joaquin County for a new school district. The new district was granted and was called Salem.

The original district encompassed twenty-four sections of land that was bounded on the north by Peltier Road, Harney Lane on the south, Alpine Road on the east and extending one mile west of Cherokee Lane.

Construction for the one room school was started May 12, 1859 near the site of Wilhelm's Ferry, a drawbridge at a point 500 feet east of the present 99 highway (Cherokee Lane) and about the same distance south of the Mokelumne River on the Ezekiel Lawrence property.

Lumber for the 30' x 50' one room building was hauled by teams of horses from the Sierra Nevada Mountains by Peter and Victor Jahant. The boards



▲ SALEM 1883-84, 2nd School, left; 3rd School, right. The two-story building on the left is the second Salem School completed in early 1873. The picture was taken between September 1883 when the new school was completed and October 1884 when the old school was moved on Pine Street west of Sacramento Street and became part of the Lodi Hotel.

were planed in Mr. Lawrence's steam powered saw mill 300' east of the school site.

Mr. E.M. Walker and E. Lawrence did most of the carpentry and supervised the labor donated by other residents. Mr. Lawrence made the doors, windows and sashes. The desks and benches were planks nailed to crude frames made by a man named Rogers. The school was a simple frame structure with outside vertical siding. Later the shell was covered with weather boarding and the interior sealed.

► The Salem School fence built by David Kettleman in 1883 was still standing forty years later.

The Salem District school was started October 1, 1859 with J.P. Carlton as teacher and an unknown number of pupils. Mr. Carlton was paid from a subscription fund donated by 15 parents and other citizens.

The Lodi Cyclone newspaper reported that Mr. Carlton was an eccentric. He would go to the school house late at night and lecture by candlelight to the empty benches on the subject of the annexation of Canada to the United States.

E.M. Walker, G.D. Compton and John Caldwell were the first trustees,

but by April 1860 the District elected a new Board, J.P. Thompson, J. Caldwell and S. Purdy. Their first action was to discharge teacher Hamilton Wermuth

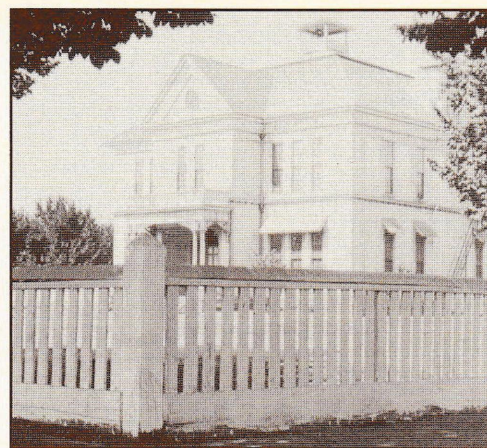


Photo by San Joaquin County Historical Society





▲ SALEM SCHOOL

*Photo San Joaquin County Historical Society*

for using public money before the fiscal year had started. The former trustees were given a receipt for maps, books and various papers.

During this early period there was a fast turnover of trustees and teachers. The latter taught terms of three to six months for a salary of \$36.00 to \$75.00 a month. Some received board but others did not.

At the end of May 1860, two new trustees were on the Board. J.S. Buckner, Minor Schofield and J.P. Thompson remained and in October they started a four month school term with James E. White as the teacher at \$60.00 a month. E.M. Walker was appointed Census Marshal for the Salem district.

On November 17, 1860 the School Board met at the home of new trustee William Morton who had replaced Minor Schofield. James Tallmadge took the place of Jas. P. Thompson who left the district.

Firewood cost \$2.50 a cord and a large quantity of wood was purchased

to keep the drafty school warm during the winter months.

November 1862 was the first time the school house was used by the trustees for a meeting place. Up until that time, meetings were held in the homes or businesses of the trustees. \$12.00 was paid to five people for firewood. James S. Burger was hired as a teacher for \$60.00 a month. Mr. Burger was to collect public money for bills and if they ran short to collect the funds from parents of the school children.

In both May and August of 1863 elections were held for trustees and in October drew lots for the length of terms. William Morton – 3 years, James Tallmadge – 2 years and E. Lawrence, secretary.

In October of 1863, J.S. Hammond was to teach for three months at \$40.00 per month and board. Apparently the district was experimenting with having two schools. As of November the board employed R.P. Randel to teach in the upper portion of the district.

No doubt the trustees found that they could not afford two teachers and at the end of their terms one teacher was hired, Hamilton Wermuth, the man that was discharged four years earlier.

In 1863 and 1864 there were different teachers for the terms and some new trustees were elected twice a year and some were serving again after an earlier time. Ex-trustees were appointed to assess the property, count eligible pupils and collect taxes. The school trustees would sit as a Board of Equalization to equalize the assessed value of property within the district.

May 17, 1864 the Alpine School District was formed with the removal of five sections of land from the Salem District on the east.

In September, 1866 the Salem District failed to elect trustees so the county superintendent appointed John Norton and G.D. Compton as chairmen, and E. Lawrence, clerk.

On March 14, 1867 the Mokelumne River became the boundary between the Salem and Houston Districts. When the Houston School District had been established five years earlier, they took all but three sections north of the Mokelumne. The Salem school house was now on the north edge of the district and it was time to move nearer to the center of the district.

Seven months later the District Board was considering moving the school house. The trustees agreed to commence the move immediately and expedite the necessary repairs.

The school was loaded upon wagons, reportedly by the Jahants, and moved one and one half miles south to the west side of Cherokee Lane on the property of James Hutchins. The school was sealed on the inside and repairs made. A fence was built, pump and well added and two new privies built.

The trustees received \$50.00 from the Star Lodge #187 of Independent Order of Good Templars and used the money to repair the school. The Good Templars was an active lodge that worked diligently against the use of alcohol. A story surfaced years ago that at one of the meetings, an unknown individual spiked the drinking bucket



▲ SALEM SCHOOL; Gene Beckman, 1st row - far right.

*Photo of Robert Beckman*



with a bottle of whiskey.

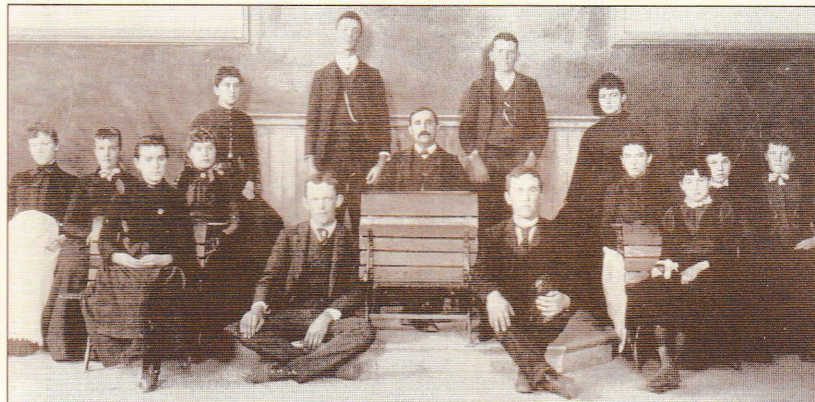
The school house was the major meeting place for most of the gatherings in the area until churches and halls were built.

On January 20, 1868 the board found that they had only \$273.00 and in the next five months they would require \$566.00. In order to pay the bills, the board appointed the teacher, J.B. Lilley as assessor and tax collector to commence immediately.

In February 1868 the trustees footed up the assessment roll and found it amounted to \$35,250.00 for the whole district. By deducting 15% for delinquencies they agreed to raise 75¢ on each \$100.00 assessed.

Most of the work done on repairing the old school house and the new site was performed by present, past and

*SALEM 1889 - 9TH GRADE. Upper row, L-R: Daisy Marilla Pleas (age 17), unknown, Benny Baird & Carrie Ivory. Middle row: May Pickens (always wore apron), Emma Witte, Stella Simpson, Mr. W.B. Piper, Blanch Stattuck, Emma Tindel, Georgia Carleton. Bottom row: Gertrude Rowland, Dave Kettleman, Geo. Hall & Georgia Carleton.* ▼



future trustees. They were paid for lumber, shakes, nails and form wood. Nothing was paid for their labor. C.C. Stoddard, J.E. McComas, R.S. Thompson, E. Lawrence and R.L. Wardrobe were the ones during this period.

The new town of Mokelumne was started in August, 1869 just a mile northwest of the school. The same year the district paid trustees as much as \$20.00 a month for boarding teachers. In September H.E. Foster started teaching for \$66.00 a month and he boarded himself. He was paid \$2.60 for sundries furnished. For some unknown reason Foster started a new term in 1870 with-

#### SALEM SCHOOL. ▶

Top Row L-R:

1. Ida Lillie
2. Mary Myers
3. Elsie Wheeler
4. Lucy Perley
5. Nellie Norton
6. Sadie Wheeler
7. Annie Hamilton
8. Myrtle Brooks
9. May Dickey
10. Effie Hugell
11. Lottie Timmons
12. Birdie Simpson
13. Lottie Coleman
14. Lena Harney
15. Ida Beardsley.

Second Row, from top: 1. Daisy Pixley 2. Florence McKinney 3. Lola Wheeler 4. Mary Springer 5. Bert Phillips 6. Ada Monroe 7. Mattie McCombs 8. Ida Monroe 9. Edith Pixley 10. Myrtle Wallace. Third Row from top: 1. Chester Grant (Father M.D.) 2. Elbert Hoggil 3. Willie Carver 4. Geo. Reasoner 5. Nora Dickey 6. Mattie Christy 7. Ruby McClure 8. Nettie DePauli 9. Annie Harres 10. Columbia Foccaci 11. Lillian Pleas 12. Lida Knight 13. Mary Reasoner. Bottom Row: 1. Arthur Allison 2. Dan Myers 3. Alfred Archer 4. Harry Sollars 5. Ben Wallace 6. Fred Taylor 7. Wesley Jones 8. Benny Ambrost 9. James Moor. Teacher: Miss Russell sitting in the window.



#### SALEM GIRLS BASKETBALL ▶

- Top row, L-R:
1. Alice Hawley
  2. Gladys Enlow
  3. unknown
  4. Emma Merkel
  5. Marjorie Walters
  6. Annie Crose



building, C.O. Ivory built a two story home and R.C. Bosworth, James Ellison, C.M. Boalt, Isaac N. Stretch and Samuel Gray all built new homes. Many of the houses were being built northwest of the school. In March of 1871 an election was held which favored the moving of the school house and also constructing a new building. The trustees resolved to move the existing school closer to the center of town. The new building had to be postponed due to lack of funds.

In November 1871, A.T. Rutledge was paid \$40.00 for moving and repairing the school. Four months later, a large

out qualifying according to the law and was not entitled to public monies. Mr. Foster was paid with private money until J.W. Johnson replaced him in September and continued throughout the following year.

In the year of 1871 there was increased growth of the town, for during that year Rev. Bryant built a church. R. Leffler & Co. put up a large hotel building on Pine and Sacramento Streets, W.R. Arnold put up a brick

*SALEM SCHOOL FIRE DRILL: circa 1900 fire drill at Salem School with some of the boys standing on the foundation of a storage building in progress of construction.*





wind storm blew the school house off its foundation. Mr. Rutledge was paid an additional \$19.00 to move the school back on the foundation.

After the school was moved Reuben L. Wardrobe was paid \$18.00 for boring a well. It was nine months later that the district paid Wardrobe \$93.10 for the block of land, bounded by Stockton, Walnut, Washington Streets and Lodi Avenue, (where the Safeway Store now stands).



▲ SALEM SCHOOL, Lodi; Eighth Grade; circa 1910

The Spring of 1872, Thomas Hutchins, Census Marshal, reported 77 children over five and under fifteen years of age. Due to the increased number of school aged children, the new building was needed at once.

A school bond election was held and passed to tax at a rate of 70¢ per \$100.00 of property owned to raise an expected \$1500.00 and in September bids were received for a new school. A.S. Thomas came in with a low bid of \$2033.00 and started building. There were other expenses, such as \$546.00 for school



▲ SALEM SCHOOL 1910. Top row, R-L: Alice Chase, Delia Schmidt, Bessie Latinour, Gladys Enlow, Amelia Gorden, Hilda Enlow, Bessie Fuller & Sydney Chase. 2nd from top: Virgie Spencer, Marjorie Walters, Bertha Bender, Eva Jackson, Grace McLeary, Mary Muele, Unknown, Emily Townsend. 3rd from top: Will McClusky, Ray Bowling, Homer Wilson, Rich Caples, Paul Mitchel, Edward Atwood, Gene Lahar, Victor Beckman, Marian Madison. Bottom row: Edward Walters, Geo. Nicewong, Earl Dupre, Walter Pope, Harold Ritter, Walter Schultz, Ed Hepper & Fred F.



▲ SALEM SCHOOL 1894 4TH GRADE. Top Row, L-R: 1. Ida Miles 2. Edith Simpson 3. May Carter 4. Clarence McCloud 5. Tom Hamilton 6. Emily Coleman (teacher) 7. Frank Hodges 8. Harry Jacobsen 9. Geo. Rich 10. Edwin Steacy 11. Dell Williams. Second row, from top: 1. Fanny Nicewanger 2. Carrie Draper 3. May Nicewanger 4. Benny Page 5. Willie Benedict 6. Edwin Clark 7. Johnny Myers 8. Walter Harley 9. Fred Marken 10. Ray Merrill 11. Harry Cope. Third row from top: 1. Mattie Smith 2. Lena Martin 3. Lena Marken 4. Edith Ivory 5. Alice Witte 6. Maude Crabtree 7. Minnie Harney 8. Ethel Clark 9. Mary Rathburn 10. Frances Carrington 11. Blanche Carrington 12. Maude Carrington 13. Bee Miles. Front row: 1. Ethel McCribb 2. Merle Hale 3. Edith MacDonald 4. Amy Geoffroy 5. Annie Baker 6. Alice Simpson 7. Ethel Pagel 8. Clara Archer 9. Tillie Sturla 10. Leah Wakefield 11. Lottie Lemoine 12. Edna Ivory 13. Retta Copper 14. Maude Landon.

seats, so the board had to borrow money from private citizens.

In December, 1872 a school benefit added \$160.00 to the \$1692.30 from taxes and \$48.25 for the sale of the old school-house. It was sold to James Hutchins who moved it across Lodi Avenue to his farm. It was remodeled and used as a private residence. Later, when Hutchins sold his property to Henry Barnhart, the building was torn down.

The residents and students now started calling the new school "Salem."

In April 1873 the annual school election saw Ezekiel Lawrence, Allen T. Ayers and George Hogan elected trustees. All but one of the founders of Lodi had served our schools.

J.M. McCall, father of Mrs. Myrtle Green, also a Lodi teacher, was the only teacher in 1873 but became the first principal the following year when Miss E.S. Elliott was hired to teach and by the 1874-1875 term saw J.M. McCall, Julia Hackshaw and T.B. Bird all teaching.

Expenses included \$1.50 for ink, 38¢ for chalk, \$32.50 for school house insurance, a new water bucket and two dippers. Firewood was now \$5.00 a cord and three cords were purchased from S.H. Pleas. Additional wood was cut at the school site.

A run off election for trustee was held after a tie vote with J.E. Spencer and C.M. Boalt. Mr. Boalt was the winner and won a 3 year term and was named clerk.

In 1879 there were 146 students between the ages of 5 and 17 years attending Salem school. Two years later that number had increased to 193 pupils.

Ralph Morton in his 1957 study of Lodi schools said, "Despite the new building of 1873, the increased pupil enrollment called for new action." The 1879 addition costing \$400.00 was referred to as "The Kitchen" by the Lodi Sentinel.



The next years a one room building called the wood shed was added. Due to the increase in the number of pupils in 1881 and 1882, the trustees used the attic of Stoddard's Hall as a class room. The hall was located on the southeast corner of Main and Oak Streets and was used for many community affairs and later became the Cosmopolitan Hotel.

The Sentinel and local citizens pushed for a \$10,000.00 bond for the district to build a new school. The election was held October 10, 1881 but did not obtain the necessary two thirds vote (115 for and 63 against). The school enrollment was 193 at this time.



▲ SALEM SCHOOL, 1904-1905. Top row, L-R: 1. Ansil Post 2. Tracy 3. Frank Cornwall 4. Leo McLachlan 5. Joe Boyd 6. Glenn Fish 7. Albert Rinn. 2nd row from top: 1. Norma Standard 2. Frank Smith 3. Victoria Wallace 4. Katherine Costa 5. Mary Wilson 6. Lillian (Wedney) LaSell 7. Helen Dougherty 8. Ellen Bauer 9. Eva Sturla 10. Vera McCleary 11. Lela Barris 12. Ethel Ritter. 3rd row: 1. Emma Pearson 2. Susie Thorpe 3. Ilo Coleman 4. Clara Smith 5. Hazel Ham 6. Carrie Pool 7. Edna Tubbs 8. Winnie Calahay 9. Rosabella Long 10. Avis Bowling 11. Emma Bullock. Bottom row: 1. Oscar Nay 2. Unknown 3. Jim Prentice 4. Leslie Feese 5. Orin Cook 6. Fred Barris 7. Bruce Barris 8. George Dekay 9. Preston (Jap) Sollars 10. Frank Callahan 11. Mr. John Anderson, teacher, later became County Superintendent of Schools.



▲ SALEM SCHOOL, 1906, SEVENTH GRADE. 1. Harry Esmond 2. Lester Wilson 3. Mr. Dow (teacher) 4. Milo Graffigna 5. Charlie Pierano 6. Charlie Foggacci 7. Ward Gregg 8. Ralph Lee 9. Elwood Sturtevant 10. Lester Ritter 11. Samuel Bowman 12. Lawrence Aldridge 13. Percy Rathburn 14. Ruth Dunning 15. Sadia Miller 16. Fern Copper 17. Gladys Guggolz 18. Unknown 19. Unknown 20. Allegner Bowman 21. Mildred Smith 22. Esther Millman 23. May McLachlain 24. Alma May 25. Vennetta Erskine 26. Jennie Beronia 27. Unknown 28. Thereza Corvin 29. Bessie Merrill 30. Hazel Clark 31. Hazel Colton 32. Hazel Lemoine 33. Myrtle Enlow 34. Julia Sturtevant 35. Belle Squires 36. Amy Elanet (Mrs. Stursyron).



▲ SALEM SCHOOL 7th GRADE, 1912. Lower row, L-R: 1. Mary Merkle 2. Mae Schilling 3. Grace McCleary 4. Marjore Walters 5. Urlene Harkins 6. Frances Fowler 7. Sydney Chase 8. Lily 9. Alice Hawley 10. Eva Jackson 11. Sadie Cooper 12. Gladys Enlow 13. Marie Williams. 2nd row, L-R: 1. Adessa Schnaidt 2. Stella Magners 3. Frank Siegalkoff 4. Wesley Little 5. Richard Caple 6. Harold Ritter 7. Hathorne Hussey 8. Eugene Suess 9. Edward Walters 10. Elbert Armstrong 11. Gustav Fink. 3rd row: 1. Theodore Hunt 2. Paul Glassford 3. Victor Meyers.



▲ SALEM SCHOOL, FALL 1912, TEACHER MISS CLARK. Left row: Edwin Messin, Charles Black, Wanda McMurtry, Charles Pohl, Clifford Murphy, Victor Merrill & Arvil Myers. 2nd row: Kittie Benedict, Bertha Taylor, Agnes Watkins, Edwin Boley, Viola Wallace, Alberta Brown, Clara Fuller & Ilene Spink. 3rd row: Howard Sturdeunt, Vera -, Willie Bosay, Calvin Looser, Ambus Archer, Roosevelt Pierson, Eva McCombs & Eddie Fogacci. 4th row: Edna Taylor, Reuben Troy, Willie Myers, Howard McCleary, Edward Atwood, Lester Gordon, Mamie Cooper & Clifford Miller. Standing on right: Helen Hatton, Laura Murphy, Carl Blum & Elmer Lillie.

The newspapers of nearby towns criticized Lodi sharply for not accepting its responsibility.

On April 19, 1882 another election was held. This was approved but only for \$4,000. The prominent citizens of Lodi signed personal notes for the additional amount necessary for the construction of an adequate building.

A.L. McDonald was the successful bidder at \$10,777.00. He started building in June and the building was completed September 15th, one month later than it was supposed to be finished. Mr. Beasley of Stockton was the architect and Martin and Ryan of Lodi built the stairs.

The following description of the newly erected building was seen in the Lodi Sentinel on September 15, 1883: "Salem School rests upon a solid brick foundation and its walls of rustic are 66 feet on the front and 64 feet on the sides. The eaves are





▲ SALEM SCHOOL, 1908, GIRLS' BASKETBALL.

37 feet from the ground and the hip roof, surmounted by the tower, makes the height of 105 feet. The flag pole runs up to 133 feet from the ground. The building is a model of convenience. There are eight rooms, each 28 by 30 feet on the inside, and each having a capacity to seat comfortably from 50 to 60 pupils. On both floors, a hall 12 feet wide runs through the building east and west. On each side of the hall are two rooms, separated by four-fold, sliding doors, which when thrown back, leaves an opening of 16 feet wide by 12 feet high."

The Mokelumne Maverick reported on a meeting held in Judge Rixon's office on September 29, 1883. The purpose of the meeting was for the school house dedication and the committees for the social were appointed. To solicit, Mesdames Carver, McClung, Moore, Ivory, Boalt and Scott. Committee on procuring dishes (food): Mesdames William Smith, Schu, Hasking, Baker and Rutledge. Decorations: Mesdames Ivory, Ralph, Burchard and Miss Hannah Hutchins and Miss Elsie Keagle. Ice Cream Committee: Mrs. Ellison. Soda Water and Lemonade Committee: Mr. Van Vlear. Mr. Lawrence will furnish teams to solicit contributions for the supper while the

women will furnish cake and smiles for the occasion.

This function took place in the new Salem school building the night before the dedication, October 12th. \$426.05 was raised with the proceeds to go toward any necessary improvements.

The dedication took place the next day with County Superintendent of Schools, James A. Sollinger complimenting the citizens of Lodi and Salem district for such a fine monument to education. A grand ball capped the dedication.

To complete the new school it was proposed to raise money for a town clock and bell. John Hutchins donated \$40.00, Honorable B.F. Langford, \$20.00, David Kettelman, W.J. Rixon and A.C. Meeker \$10.00, George Hogan, C.T. Elliott, C.O. Ivory, J.J. Hubbard and the Lodi Sentinel \$5.00. The Maverick \$3.50, J. Villinger, E. Lawrence, F.M. Green and W.C. Green \$2.50.

The bell became a reality but the clock forever remained a painted face which decorated the side of the bell tower.

In December 1883, the trustees ordered the 800 pound Number 8 bell from H. McShane and Co. of Baltimore, Maryland. When the bell was finally

placed in the tower at Salem school, you could hear it 12 miles away.

Truman Stoddart had offered to plant mulberry trees on the school ground. Trustee David Kettelman laid out the ground, planted elm trees and built a fence completely around the perimeter of the property, all at his own expense.

Charles Ivory and F.M. Green were the other trustees. O.E. Swain was principal and taught 18 pupils. First grade teacher, Florence Russell had 51 pupils. Second grade teacher, Mary Wright had 53 pupils. Third grade teacher, Florence Keagle had 50 pupils and the remaining grades, Ella Russell had 51 pupils for a total of 216 students.

About this time the public school of Salem was upgraded. The pupils received a thorough business education, reading, writing, mathematics, word analysis, composition and bookkeeping.

If a pupil failed in his assignment, as punishment he was often required to stand up before the class and repeat after the teacher. A student going through this ordeal, accompanied by the jeers of their school mates, seldom repeated the offense.

The boys and girls shared the classrooms but at recess time the students were separated. The girls used the east yard for their recess time and the boys were on the far side.

In October 1884 the old two story 30' x 40' school was no longer needed and was sold to the Sargent Bros. They moved it to the back of the Lodi Hotel and used it as a new dining room, kitchen and enlarged rooms.

The one room addition of 1879 was moved south to Tom Cornwall's place.

It was hoped that the new Salem would be both a grammar and high school. The dream took time and although classes were held and attempts to establish a high school failed in 1891, by September 9, 1896 a three year high school was started on the second story of Salem school and by 1899 two members, Hilliard E. Welch and George Hench graduated. The next year the first high school building was erected on the northwest corner of Lodi Avenue and Church Street.



The 3 year high school called the first year students the Junior class, the second year students were the Middle class and the third year was known as the Senior class.

In 1904 a \$25,000.00 bond election was held to help the over-crowded Salem school. The new two story Emerson school was dedicated in 1907 and was located at Hutchins and Elm Streets. This allowed a grammar school on both sides of Lodi.

It was at this time the Salem District became the Lodi School District. Three years later the Lodi grammar schools added music and art to the list of courses offered.

In 1921 William Inch was the school administrator. The trustees were John C. Keller, Wm. H. Fause and Geo. A. Keagle. Kindergarten started this year and the first two classes were at Salem school. This was also the time when the board refused to hire as teachers in the public schools, married women who were living with their husbands.

Even in those days, teachers often had problems with a few students. For conduct unbecoming a pupil the principal saw fit to expel five youths. Cigarette smoking and profane language were the chief reasons. The parents of the ill-behaved boys besieged the principal and

trustees for reinstatement, promising that due vigilance will be exercised that the faults never occur again.

In the 1920's the Lodi PTA was a very active organization. It helped raise money for many school projects and outside activities.

In the early 1930's teacher Sidney Halsey started an orchestra and band at Salem. Drama classes were given by Richard Hughes.

The student Red Cross was supported by students marching in the Armistice Day parade and filling Christmas boxes for the needy.

The science class was doing dry ice demonstrations with ice donated by the Borden Ice Cream Co.

Many articles were written for the local newspapers by students in English classes.

Sports were expanded with basketball being played in the gym of the Methodist church and the Earl Fruit Company shed.

In 1935 the boys of Salem school had been playing a combination of indoor and hard ball rules of baseball. Mr. Clarence Naas, the coach, made some new rules. They are as follows: Any ball hit over the school roof is only good for two bases and you cannot steal home

plate. To help make the boys quit hitting the roof with the ball, Mrs. Naas had offered a milk shake as a prize to anyone hitting the top of the flagpole.

Victor Loveless reported in 1936 that the principal, Mr. A.T. Smith, has given his consent for the boys and girls of the 8th grade to play each other at baseball during recess every Tuesday. So far the boys are "miles" ahead but the girls are planning to stage a "come-back."

The late Mr. Frank Siegalkoff and Mr. Bill Comartin were schoolmates attending Salem School in the early days. In recalling their school days at a Lodi Historical Society program on January 8, 1990, Bill said the school would let out at 3:30 and he would stand at the gate hoping he would be able to get a girl to walk home. Frank would make a mad dash to his father's livery stable that was nearby and come back with an elegant horse and buggy and when the girls took one look at the rig, they would naturally go with Frank and leave Bill at the gate. Frank claims the only reason the girls preferred him over Bill was because he had the fanciest looking buggy in the area. The running gear was painted silver and the body painted gold and he had the finest horses. No wonder the girls preferred to ride.



1908-09 SALEM SCHOOL 8TH GRADE.

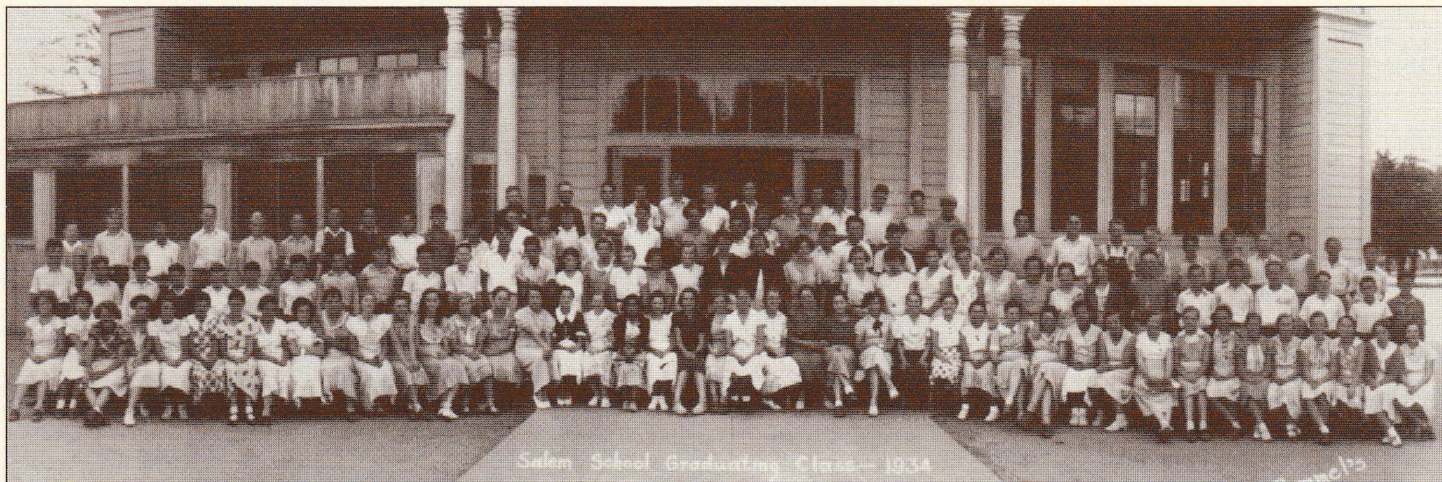
Top row, L-R: Lena Grafignia, Bullock, Alma Pope, Unknown, Ware, Unknown & Unknown.

2nd row, L-R: Nellie Griffith, Mrs. DR. Bender, Frances Ellis, Georgia Lefeber, Granados, Gladys McAffer & Unknown.

3rd row: Duree, H. McMurtry, Unknown, Emil Morf, Carl Guggolz & Joe Sturla.

Bottom row, L-R: Everett McKenzie, Carl Gaines, Joe Boyd, Neal Shank & Cecil Green.





▲ SALEM SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS, 1934

## REFERENCES

1957 HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF LODI  
Ralph Morton Wetmore

MINUTES OF THE SALEM SCHOOL  
DISTRICT FROM APRIL 16, 1860  
TO OCTOBER 2, 1875

THE LODI NEWS SENTINEL  
July 1881-1938

THE LODI CYCLONE  
September 1885 - October 1887

In 1938, after 55 years of service to the community, growth and progress again made Salem school inadequate. Disposition of the school was made at a special board meeting on October 25, 1938 when the building was sold to the High School District for \$500.00. It was to be demolished and removed and the lumber to be used for bus sheds and building repairs at the high school. The work to be accomplished by a WPA grant, thus saving the tax payers money. A sad end to a once stately school that was called "The Model of Convenience."

For a few years after the school was torn down the vacant lot was used by the Boy Scouts to burn the discarded Christmas trees they gathered each year. It made a huge bonfire that drew the attention of the entire community. Air pollution had not yet been invented.

The lot stood empty until July, 1958 when Safeway Stores built their supermarket. The only thing remaining at the site are a few of the elm trees planted so many years ago by Mr. Kettelman.

## THE LODI HISTORIAN

is a quarterly publication of the Lodi Historical Society  
P.O. Box 264, Lodi, CA 95241-0264

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No 1  
Salem District April 16<sup>th</sup> 1860  
Pursuant to a notice the Trustees of Salem District met to transact such business as would be for the best interest of said school district. present J.P. Thompson of Caldwell on motion of J.P. Thompson of Caldwell was elected Secretary. on motion of J.P. Thompson of Caldwell was appointed a committee to receive all books & papers & money from the old Trustees of Salem District adjourned to meet at April 17<sup>th</sup> 6 o'clock P.M.  
April 17<sup>th</sup> met Pursuant to an adjournment. Present J.P. Thompson of Caldwell. H. Wernmuth Teacher present by request question asked H. Wernmuth if he had drawn any Public money. He answered that he had drawn \$56.85. question did you draw that money. He answered that he did not have

▲ 1860 SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT CHARTER MINUTES.